
QUALITY, SCOPE AND EXTENT OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES 6.3

Supported employment services are available to individuals with the most severe disabilities in all disability categories including developmental disabilities, severe mental illness, traumatic brain injury, and physical disabilities. Services are provided by 19 providers, 16 of which are private non-profit, two private for-profit and one public provider through a regional human service center. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation projects to serve 214 individuals with the most severe disabilities, using primarily individual placement in competitive employment. Other modes such as mobile work crew may also be considered in those situations where a group placement appears to be the only type of outcome consistent with the individual's unique strengths, resources, abilities, capabilities, concerns, interests and informed choice.

Individuals with the most severe disabilities will be served and outcomes achieved through the implementation of the following activities:

Continued education and awareness activities for the business community, lawmakers, service providers, educators, family members, and the general public.

Targeting supported employment as an outcome for students with the most severe disabilities transitioning from school-to-work through regional transition services.

Coordination of the interfacing of the departments, agencies, divisions, organizations and programs whose activities have a direct impact on Supported Employment Services.

Identification of training and technical assistance needs based on provider outcome data.

Continue to require licensing for all supported employment providers which will include accreditation by a national accrediting body.

Continue to have semi-annual meeting with providers to provide technical assistance and training.

Continue to work with Extended Service Funding sources to ensure individuals are able to utilize SEP and access supports once the DVR case is closed.

Supported employment training is provided up to 18 months, unless more time is necessary for the client. In order to ensure continuity and a smooth transition, documentation must demonstrate that the individual meets the criteria for transitioning to extended services.

Criteria for transitioning to extended services is as follows:

1. Substantial progress towards hours per week goal.
2. Satisfactory performance of all job duties and reasonable expectation it will continue.
3. 20% intervention or less for 2 months or intervention at a consistent level above 20% but not greater than 50% for 4 months.
4. Extended services is immediately available from sources other than VI-B or 110.
5. Final approval of extended services is determined by the funding agency based on a team approach that includes the client, counselor, provider and funding agency.

At least 30 days prior to the anticipated transition to extended services, DVR counselors should notify extended service providers and funders. This will allow time to determine needed hours of extended services and to obligate funds.

Documentation must show that the individual was in employment for 120 days before the counselor closed the case rehabilitated, and that payment for extended services is available from sources other than 110 or VI-B. During the first 60 days in "stabilized" status, DVR will continue to pay for services. During the second 60 days the Extended Services funding unit (DD, Mental Health or other sources such as the TBI grant or State General Fund) will begin to pay for extended services. If the individual's employment remains stable after the second 60 days, the DVR case will be closed as successfully employed, rehabilitated. At that point the individual will be exclusively in Extended Services.